

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2018

Ms. Barbara Gellman-Danley
President
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Gellman-Danley,

We write to address a recently proposed revision of accreditation criteria that will undermine the independence of faith-based institutions accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Religious colleges and universities enjoy a long, successful track record of working hand-in-hand with accrediting bodies, such as HLC, to provide exceptional academic opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds while operating within each particular school's religious mission. However, HLC's March 2018 "Alpha Version" of revisions to accreditation criteria stands to significantly impair the ability of religious institutions to effectively carry out their missions.

As you know, HLC's current accreditation process allows religious colleges and universities to consider issues surrounding diversity and multiculturalism within the context of the organization's faith-based mission. However, HLC's proposed revisions to its *Criteria for Accreditation* includes a substantial policy change that threatens religious liberty.

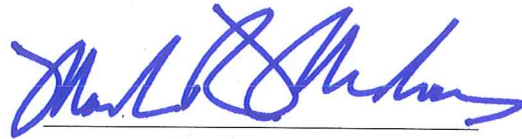
Specifically, the proposal eliminates the phrase "as appropriate within its mission and for the constituency it serves" from Criterion 1(B)2, which governs institutional diversity and multiculturalism policies. This revision will further insert HLC into religious schools' governance structure and violates the religious freedom status that all faith-based higher education institutions currently enjoy.

As such, we request HLC withdraw the proposed revisions to its accreditation criteria and cease this attack on faith-based institutions. Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

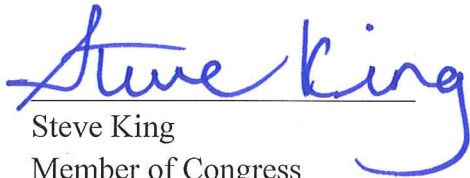
Sincerely,



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



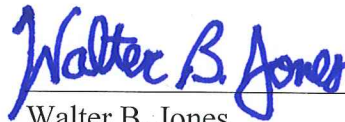
Steve King
Member of Congress



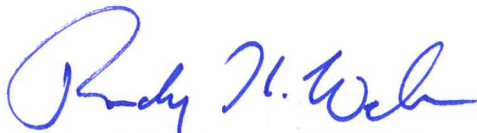
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



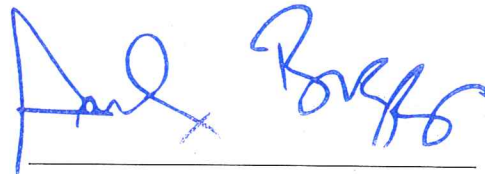
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Andy Harris
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress